New Initiatives for Increasing Trade between India and China

†4350. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI. Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China have taken some new initiatives for increasing the mutual trade between the two countries; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether India and China have entered into any new trade agreement to widen trade relations with the ASEAN countries by further strengthening mutual trade relations between the two countries; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the frequency of air cargo service is going to be increased to strengthen the trade relations between India and China; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) India-China two-way trade has registered rapid growth in recent years. During the visit of former Prime Minister to China in June 2003, India and china had agreed to set up a Joint Study Group to examine the potential complementarities between the two countries in expanded trade and economic cooperation. The Joint Study Group completed its mandate in march 2005 and its report was presented to the Prime Ministers of India and China during the visit of Premier Wen Jiabo to India in the second week of April, 2005. The Joint Study Group report recommends a number of measures to expand trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) During the visit of Premier Wen Jiabao to India in April 2005, India and China signed a Civil Aviation Agreement which provides for major liberalization of air links between India and China with multiple designation of carriers and an Open Skies policy for cargo.

Border Trade Through Pangsaung Pass

4351. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Custom Station namely 'PANGSAUNG

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

PASS' has been recently in operation on the Indo-Myanmar Border in the State of Arunachal Pradesh for two days only in a month for the purpose of border trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether barter trade is permissible on that station and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, by when 'PANGSAUNG PASS' is likely to be opened for Indo-Myanmar border trade;

(d) whether a Chinese delegation recently expressed interest in the opening of the said route; and

(e) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) There is no Land Customs Station or customs gate named 'PANSAUNG' in the state of Arunachal Pradesh along the Indo-Myanmar border. However, there is a Land Customs Station at Nampong (Pangsang Pass) in the state of Arunachal Pradesh along the Indo-Myanmar, which is not operational.

(b) Border trade through Nampong Land Customs Station is not permissible as this Land Customs Station is not a designated customs port for the purpose of items of Article-I of Indo-Myanmar Trade Agreement of 1994.

(c) No decision has been taken to open Pansaung Pass for Indo-Myanmar border trade.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Discussions on Trade prospects and problems with Japan

4352. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:
SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks were held with the Japanese Minister of Trade and Economy recently on trade prospects and problems;